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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1959.

Report presented by

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Health Inspector.

Hertford Rural District.

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1959.

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

P R E F A C E

To the Chairman and Councillors, Hertford Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Wright and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hertford Rural District for the year 1959.

The past year has been a relatively healthy one with no large outbreaks of illness in the Rural District. There has been a increase of 1·5% in the population and the birth rate has fallen by 2·83% per 1,000 population over last year.

There has been only one new case of tuberculosis leaving 57 persons on the register. Mass-radiography is being used to detect cases in the adult population. The Unit visited Benington with a very good response from the inhabitants and this has encouraged us to make arrangements for further visits of this Unit. Skin testing and BC 9 innoculation is being carried out on children prior to them leaving school and this should further reduce the incidence of tuberculosis.

There has been an intensive campaign to get all expectant mothers and persons under 26 years of age immunized against poliomyelitis. The response has been very good and there have been no cases of poliomyelitis in this area in the past year. The age level of eligible persons has recently been raised to 40 but so far parents are obviously more ready to get their children immunized than they are to get protected themselves.

I should like to thank your Council and my colleagues for all the help I have received during the Year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

J. E. CRAWLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. J. E. Crawley.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M.,BCh., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector D. R. HOWE.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department.

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone :- Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Health Department were carried out by Mrs. I. M. Ball, Mrs. R. E. Swallow and Mrs. K. W. Everett.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Commi the Chairman of which for the Session 1959/60 was Councillor The Rev. C S. Bradney.

Sub-standard housing was dealt with by the Improvements Committee t Chairman of which was Mr. F. J. Harrington.

S E C T I O N A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1959.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1958 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District :-

Registrar General's Estimate ..	9,300	(9,160)
Natural Increase or decrease		+51
Migration in or out		+89
Total Increase or decrease		+140

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres ... ... 31,746.

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books :

3,298 (3,257)

Number of Houses per acre	0.10
Number of Persons per acre	0.20
Number of Persons per house	2.08

Rateable Value of District £89,711

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £348

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATICS 1959.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1958 are shown in brackets).

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.98	(16.81)
Area Comparability Factor for Births ...	1.01	(1.01)

Number of Live Births	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Total:	72	58	130
Legitimate	69	54	123
Illegitimate	3	4	7
Number of Still Births	3	0	3

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.49	(10.04)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ...	1.01	(1.04)

Number of Deaths	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
All Ages - Total:	45	34	79
Deaths of Infants under 1yr.	0	0	0
No. under 4 weeks of age	1	0	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 30.8 (25.97)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTH RATE 16.5 (16.4) DEATH RATE 11.6 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate 22.0 (22.5)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1959 :-

Disease	Total all ages.	Age group in years. Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	5	-	1	4	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	201	8	72	120	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	1	1	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different Months.

Disease	Month and Number of Cases.
Scarlet Fever	February (3) April (1) December (1).
Whooping Cough	April (1) July (1).
Measles	March (2) April (17) May (84) June (53) July (45).
Acute Pneumonia	July (1).
Erysipelas	February (1) June (1).

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1959 :-

Parish.	Disease and Number of Cases.
Aston	Measles (1).
Bayford..	Erysipelas (1) Measles (2).
Benington	Scarlet Fever (2)Ac.Pneumonia (1) Measl
Bramfield	Measles (6) Scarlet Fever(1). (34
Bengeo Rural	Measles (2).
Brickendon	Measles (2).
Datchworth	Measles (3).
Hertingfordbury	Measles (8) Whooping Cough (1) Scarlet Fever (1).
Little Amwell	Measles (37).
Little Berkhamsted	Measles (2).
Sacombe	Measles (1).
Stapleford	Measles (6).
Tewin	Measles (18) Scarlet Fever (1) Erysipelas (1).
Walkern	NIL.
Watton-at-Stone	Measles (79) Whooping Cough (1).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following is a summary of Tuberculoses Notifications etc, during 1959 :-

The Year commenced with 54 names upon the Tuberculosis Register :-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	24	5
Females	19	6

One New Case was notified for the first time,

Males	0	0
Females	1	0

There were two Inward Transfers, from other areas,

Males	0	0
Females	2	0

No patients died,

Males	0	0
Females	0	0

No patients left the District (Outward Transfers),

Males	0	0
Females	0	0

No patients were pronounced CURED,

Males	0	0
Females	0	0

The year therefore ended with 57 cases on the Register :-

Males	24	5
Females	22	6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Line No.		M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	49	31
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0
11.	" " lung, bronchus	5	1
12.	" " breast	0	1
13.	" " uterus	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
20.	Other heart disease	3	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	0
22.	Influenza	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	2	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34.	All other accidents	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	3	0
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age ...	0	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL.

Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

County Council Health Services.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946 are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 4. Welfare Centres : 7.
Mobile Clinics : 2.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford. (Telephone : Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A medical Loan Depot has been established at the Durrant Hall, Mill Bridge, Hertford but will shortly be at the health centre at Bull Plain, Hertford.

A charge may be made for both the above services.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone : Hertford 2222). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 541.)

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been well established in Hertford.

Hospital Services.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Practitioner Medical Services.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns and school dental clinics.

Other Services.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1959.

Introduction.

The Year under review was again a Year of steady although unspectacular progress towards attainment of a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene. It is satisfying to record that the number of Improvement Grant applications continued on a relatively high level and in a number of cases properties subject to Demolition Orders were improved by the Owners up to a very satisfactory standard.

Water Supplies.

Towards the end of the period under review arrangements were being made to facilitate the disposal of the Council's water undertaking to the newly formed Lee Valley Water Co. The Council resolved that prior to the taking over of the water undertaking water would be supplied to seven more properties which previously had no mains supply. The Council agreed to assist the Owners by paying a 50% grant.

Throughout the year there were only one or two minor interruptions to the mains supply and generally in spite of the very hot and prolonged summer the supply comfortably exceeded demand.

In order to ensure purity of the water regular samples were taken at widely differing points on the supply system and these were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological examination.

The result of these laboratory examinations are tabulated below :-

Satisfactory	-	57.
Unsatisfactory	-	14.

In the case of samples not reaching the highest bacteriological standards all of which were recorded as "unsatisfactory" arrangements were made for immediate follow up samples to be taken and in each case these proved completely satisfactory.

There was in fact no sample which suggested the possibility of serious pollution and all samples would have been regarded as quite satisfactory for drinking purposes except in relation to the necessarily high standards against which public supplies are required to satisfy.

Means of Supply to Dwellings during 1959.

At the end of the Year the water supply to individual properties was as shown in the Table below :-

	Houses connected to Mains		Houses supplied by Wells and Private Sys.	No Means of Supply.	Total.
	Indoors	Stand-pipe.			
Aston	171	3	21	0	195
Bayford	128	0	3	0	131
Benington	226	4	1	0	231
Bengeo Rural	107	0	3	1	111
Bramfield	76	1	2	0	79
Brickendon	96	1	40	0	137
Datchworth	373	13	1	0	387
Hertingfordbury	227	0	5	0	232
Little Amwell	302	12	0	0	314
Little Berkhamsted	162	2	0	0	164
Sacombe	61	0	0	1	62
Stapleford	142	19	2	0	163
Tewin	310	4	3	0	317
Walkern	254	4	15	0	273
Watton-at-Stone	262	6	1	0	269
	2,897	69	97	2	3,065
1958 Total	2,779	94	97	2	2,970

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council have continued their policy of providing main drainage in as many Parishes as possible. During the Year work on laying new sewers in the Parish of Watton-at-Stone was commenced and when this work is completed the out moded outfall will cease to be used and the new sewers will discharge into the Stevenage Trunk Sewer. Work also commenced during the Year on the Stapleford sewerage scheme.

Cesspool Emptying.

During the Year it was possible to arrange for improved disposal points for the cesspool emptier contents and although the demand for this service has remained as in the previous year virtually static, the service has not been under the severe pressure that it had been under during a number of the post war years.

Development of Undertaking and Services.

The following Tables indicate the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Council's services.

SERVICE	31st MARCH, 1952		YEAR ENDING 1959	
	No.	Datum.	No.	%Datum.
No. of Houses	2562	100	3065	119.6
WATER				
Houses supplied	2152	100	2638	121.4
Staff engaged	0.875	100	1.85	211.5
MAIN SEWERAGE				
Houses connected	980	-	1663	169.7
Staff engaged	4.18	-	3.44	82.3
CESSPOOL EMPTYING				
Houses with cesspools	1155	100	1054	91.23
Loads of sewage removed	824	100	702	84.94
Staff engaged	2.4	100	2.34	97.50
REFUSE COLLECTION				
Houses served	2552	100	3059	119.9
Staff engaged	3.27	100	4.89	149.5

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY HEALTH INSPECTOR.

During the Year 1959.

Factories Act	9
Food and Drugs Act:	
Food Premises	90
Housing Acts:	
Inspections and interviews	248
Improvement Grants	474

Summary of Visits by Health Inspector (cont).

Public Health Acts :	
Caravans	2
Complaints	11
Infectious Diseases	0
Nuisances	16
Refuse Collection	60
Sewerage	478
Verminous Premises	0
Water Supplies	269
Petrol Storage	25
Rodent Control	103
Miscellaneous Visits	71
Total ...	1,856

HOUSING ACTS.

Substandard Properties.

During the year good progress was made towards eliminating all unsatisfactory dwellings as shown in the following table.

Demolition Orders made	5	(Total since 1955 144)
Reconditinning proposals accepted	11	
Reconditioning completed	11	
Houses demolished	20	
Total visits made in connection) with surveys, demolition orders) and housing repairs was :-	248	

Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £10,133 were made by the Council to property owners wishing to improve and modernise old property. The number of grants made was 28 which involved 28 properties. In a number of cases it was intended to convert two or more old cottages into one larger house.

Housing progress.

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).

	During 1959.	Since 1945.
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	62	344
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptions in terms of family units	1	33
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	39	568
Conversions or adaptions in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc.)	1	7
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1959.		
Council Houses	808	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	
Sundries	1	

Public Health Act, 1936.

The public reaction to a Public Health nuisance is still such that although a number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year they were again abated without resource to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years sewers were treated whenever possible in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation to ensure destruction of rats but no major infestations were reported. Staff shortages have on occasions delayed this work.